

THE SWORD OF THE LORD

EDITED BY JOHN R. RICE
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"And they cried, The Sword of the Lord, and of Gideon." Judges 7:20

An Independent Religious Weekly, Standing for the Verbal Inspiration of the Bible, the Deity of Christ, His Blood Atonement, Salvation by Faith, New Testament Soul Winning and the Premillennial Return of Christ. Opposes Sin, Modernism, and Denominational Overlordship

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Reports Over 1,000 Saved in Radio Revival

In January and February Rev. Theodore H. Epp of the *Back to the Bible Broadcast* at Grand Island, Nebraska, had a radio revival. He had two broadcasts a day of thirty and forty-five minutes respectively on radio KMMJ, 740 kilocycles, at 8:45 to 9:30 a.m. at Grand Island, and also Sunday a three-station broadcast at 1:30 on WNAX of Yankton, South Dakota, and KMA, Shenandoah, Iowa, as well as KMMJ of Grand Island. In two months' time it was this editor's privilege to spend four weeks in these daily broadcasts with Bro. Epp and we had a blessed time with thousands of letters coming to tell of the blessings God gave to listeners.

A letter came the other day from Brother Epp giving a report on the results of the revival and I am printing it for the readers of *The Sword of the Lord*.

He gives a few samples of the letters which came and reports that there were over 1,000 saved during the two months radio revival, as reported in letters he received. Here is Brother Epp's letter:

Grand Island, Nebraska
March 29, 1941

Dear Bro. Rice:

I know you have waited a long time to get the so-called *final report* on the radio revival. But there is no final report to give, I am happy to report. Letters continue to flow in with such wonderful testimonies, that we can truly say the radio revival was the means of setting on fire a revival that is sweeping this whole north central section of the nation. Within hundreds of miles of Grand Island we are hearing of the fires burning. Yes, to top it all I received personal notice from a pastor in California that several there had heard about this revival and that they, too, went to prayer about the matter, for their own communities and that revival fires have broken way there.

I cease not to thank God for giving you and these other good men to us for this revival. Then, too, there are thousands that have written in that they are praying daily for a revival. And prayer is still

the greatest factor at our disposal whereby one may bring revival. I want you to know that you have many faithful prayer warriors in this part of the nation.

It was a joy to hear from pastors, how that whole church groups met for daily prayer during the revival. Others are writing in how that their church is growing in spiritual power. And the results coming from the 30,000 books we mailed out during the revival are still coming in. And now your paper is following up some of this work in over 2,000 homes. Praise God!

Now of course you are interested in knowing about the number that have written in about their personal salvation. Well, this number cannot be set. As in Christ's time, there was but one out of the ten healed, that returned to thank Him. So we do not know how many made their confession. But we have heard from over a thousand, and the many that did not write in will be heard from in Glory. What a day of rejoicing that will be! I cease not to give thanks unto God for His wonderful grace and mercy, whereby all this is made possible.

If it were possible, I would like to send you all the testimonies that have come in, but a few will have to suffice. I will just copy a few for you here.

Salvation of Mother

Nebraska

Dear Brother Epp:

Words cannot here express what the radio revival has done for me. It has been my true means of real salvation. But what a pity to have lived since I was twelve years old, thinking that I was saved, when I was not. Oh, may God bless you radio ministers who have really awakened my soul. — Mrs. C. K.

Salvation of Mother and Boy

Kansas

I am happy to report that my boy and I, myself, have now been saved. — Mrs. A. A. H.

Church Member Saved

Nebraska

Dear Brother Epp:

Three years ago I joined the

Easter and Judgment



Rev. Theodore H. Epp, the radio pastor of the *Back to the Bible Broadcast* in Grand Island, Nebraska. In a letter reporting his recent two months radio revival in which the editor had the privilege of helping four weeks, Mr. Epp writes there were over 1,000 reported saved in the thousands of letters from listeners. He may be heard daily on KMMJ, 740 kilocycles, at 8:45 to 9:30 a.m., Grand Island, Nebraska, or on Sunday at 1:30 on the same station, with WNAX, 570 kilocycles, of Yankton, South Dakota, on KMA, 930 kilocycles, at Shenandoah, Iowa. He has a fine corps of workers and God is using him in a great work.

Church. But it really didn't change my heart. And I am going to trust Christ from now on. I already am happier since I accepted Jesus as my Saviour. — Mrs. H.

A Rebellious Soul Saved

Nebraska

Dear Brother in Christ:

Sometimes as Brother Rice spoke I would get hot and turn off the radio, then the next day I would listen to the singing again — I felt the need of Christ as you would sing and talk, but never went any further. This morning as Bro. Rice preached there were so many things that came home to me, but as usual I thought I just couldn't yield, and that the singing would soon be over, and I'd forget about it, for today. But when Bro. Rice pled for souls, I broke down, right there. And now, and God has forgiven me. Praise the Lord. — Mrs. C. C. V.

Mother and Two Daughters Saved

South Dakota

Dear Brother Epp:

I was a church member all my life, but the minister never tells us these things. But now things are so different since I have been listening to you, and I feel very happy. My husband and some of the children are not yet saved, please pray for them. — Mrs. H. S.

My sister and I were saved by our mother's knee one afternoon after we heard your 1:30 broadcast. — L. S.

I gave my heart to Jesus Feb. 8th after I heard you on the radio. — V. S.

Mother Saved

Kansas

Dear Brother Epp:

I was a sinner. I do not want to cover any of my sins, for I know I broke all the laws of God. I was like the woman, I heard Bro. Rice (CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO)

(Sermon preached Easter Sunday night, April 17, 1938, by Dr. John R. Rice at Fundamental Baptist Tabernacle, 201 East Tenth Street, Dallas, Texas, where he was then pastor. Stenographically reported.)

In Acts seventeen, the book of Acts, chapter seventeen, Paul preached to the people at Athens about the Lord Jesus that He was raised from the dead, and I will read you a few verses, beginning with verse twenty-two and through verse thirty-one.

"Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars' hill, and said, Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious.

"23. For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you.

"24. God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands;

"25. Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things;

"26. And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation;

"27. That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us;

"28. For in him we live, and move, and have our being."

You wouldn't breathe another breath if it were not for the mercy of God. Your heart wouldn't beat another beat but for the mercy of God that sustains you. In Him you unsaved men live. In Him you unsaved women live and move, and you couldn't move without Him. You couldn't have your being without Him.

"28. For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as

certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring."

Every one here came from the hand of God. Every one here is a creation, a being made by God.

"29. Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device."

Somebody said, "How do you know there is a God?" Because I am here. It took somebody to make me. I am not a stone or a stick. And therefore God isn't a rock. God isn't something carved out of a tree. God isn't a melted idol out of metal of silver or gold. There is bound to be a great God. I am here and that proves there is a God. You are here, and that proves there is a God. We are the offspring of God.

"30. And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent.

"31. Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead."

Now I want you to read again the last two verses:

"And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:

"Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead."

PRAYER: Our Father, open our hearts this night. Men here will spend eternity somewhere. Women here will spend eternity somewhere. Boys and girls here will spend eternity in Hell or in Heaven with Thee or with Satan in flames, in torment. Oh, we pray, give me grace to preach on the judgment that Thy Word may speak to men's hearts and the Holy (CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO)

In God's Sight Justified By Faith; In Man's Sight Justified By Works

Question: "Explain James 2:17, 20, 26.

James 2:17 says: "Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone."

James 2:20 says: "But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?"

James 2:26 says: "For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also."

These verses mean first of all, that the only way to show our faith to men is by our works. God sees the heart, but man cannot. So in verse eighteen of the same chapter, we are told:

"Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works."

You can see, then, that this passage speaks about showing faith to men, a faith that is already in the heart. Verses 21-22 show how Abraham who first believed God and was already justified in God's sight, proved his faith by offering Isaac, and so fulfilled, or worked out, or showed to men, his faith.

Likewise in verse 25, Rahab the harlot is said to have been "justi-

fied by works, when she had received the messengers and had sent them out another way." That is, she was already saved by faith. In God's sight, she was justified, but in men's sight, she did not prove her faith except by some outward work. I say that the first meaning here is that we can show our faith to men, and so be justified in men's sight, only by works, to prove our faith.

But the secondary meaning here is that the right kind of faith actually changes lives. Abraham believed God, and so by faith he offered Isaac. Rahab believed God and so by faith she received the messengers, the spies, and sent them forth in peace. And Hebrews chapter eleven shows how in many, many cases, those who had faith did certain wonderful things. Faith is not so much a feeling as it is acting on the plain promises of God and meeting God's promises. Faith is not *feeling*; faith is *doing*.

Now be sure to note the great distinction between being justified in the sight of men, and being justified in the sight of God. People are justified in the sight of men by (CONTINUED ON PAGE FOUR)

WHAT YOU GOT FOR 16 $\frac{2}{3}$ c

Revival sermon by Dr. W. B. Riley just as he preached it on Sunday night at the great First Baptist Church of Minneapolis on "WHO, THEN, WILL BE SAVED?"

A red-hot sermon used of God to stir and save many souls in the big Chicago Gospel Tabernacle, by Evangelist Harvey H. Springer on "SO GREAT SALVATION."

Rev. T. Myron Webb's sermon, preached on a special radio network on "GOD'S CHALLENGE TO THE NATION." Twelve thousand people wrote letters asking for this sermon.

Sermon by the Texas Jewish evangelist, Rev. Hyman Appelmann, preached in the biggest Bible conference in America, the Moody Bible Institute's Founder's Week Conference, on "THE DOUBTER'S QUESTION." Many, many letters came telling of blessings received.

A message on soul winning by Evangelist Charles E. Fuller brought on the Old Fashioned Revival Hour and heard by millions on 150 radio stations, printed in *The Sword of the Lord*.

Two great gospel messages by the most popular Bible teacher and pastor in America, Dr. Harry A.

Ironside, "PEACE BY JESUS CHRIST," and "WHAT THE CROSS MEANS."

Other unusual messages were printed: a message, "AMERICA AT THE CROSSROADS," by Rev. Theodore H. Epp, and one by Rev. Wm. J. Fox on "WHY PRAYERS ARE NOT ANSWERED."

Three articles by Rev. Sam Morris of the bold temperance broadcast, *The Voice of Temperance* on, "PITCHING OUR TENTS TOWARD SODOM," "JONAH'S SECOND CALL," and "THE CANKER OF THE SOUL."

A tender, comforting message to suffering Christians on "GOD'S ALL THINGS," by Evangelist J. C. Brumfield.

Four messages by Rev. John R. Rice on the Christian and sin: "DO ALL CHRISTIANS SIN?" "FURTHER PROOF THAT CHRISTIANS SIN," "ROMANS SIX AND FIRST JOHN THREE DO NOT TEACH SINLESS PERFECTION," "SALVATION, 'HOLINESS,' 'BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT,' 'GOD'S PERFECT COMMANDS,' DO NOT MEAN CHRISTIANS ARE SINLESS."

Sermons by the editor, "THE (CONTINUED ON PAGE THREE)

Reports Over 1,000 Saved in Revival

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

Speak about in his sermon . . . I listened very carefully and drank in every word every day. I understand more about it now, and on the 5th of Feb. I am confessing myself to be a sinner, and deserving the judgment; but believing that Jesus Christ, God's Son, paid the penalty for my sins upon Calvary, I do now accept Him as my Saviour, and receive from Him the gift of eternal life, which He so graciously offers me. I give to Him my heart and life. — Mrs. G. G. —

Mother and Son

Nebraska

Rev. Epp:

I just finished listening to Rev. Olsen of North Platte and I and my little son 10 years old, both knelt and gave ourselves to be saved. And asked for the forgiveness of our sins. And this is all due to your radio sermons and the books of Brother Rice sent to me. — Mrs. A. H. — and Son.

Sleeping Christian Set on Fire

Dear Brother Epp:

I get so much good from the broadcast. It has really awakened me, to the fact that I was getting slack in my prayer life. And when Bro. Rice (God bless him) woke me up that I was sitting here letting those we love go to hell. I said, "YES, it is so." So I got busy and got to work, and a few more of us here in — are going out to get them. Praise God we are awake at last. I was saved just recently after your visit here to — Mrs. P. N. —

From Missouri

Please pray for my husband, that he will heed the call of our Saviour and be saved as I did this morning. I'm so happy, I just wish I was able to tell the whole world what the Lord can do for us if we only let Him.

Father and Mother From Missouri

Restored

Dear Brother Epp:

Husband and I were living in a backslidden condition. Oh, no, we never took part in any worldly affairs, such as card playing, movies, dances, not even attending the worldly programs of the churches, and we always returned thanks at the table. But we were away from our God. We had quit our family prayer, were getting cold and losing out with God. But after listening to your programs a few times, we realized we were on our way to hell. So we had a talk one morning, at the breakfast table, and decided there and then to return to our Heavenly Father and beg His forgiveness for our sins. And claim His promises. Oh, we feel so much happier and such a load is lifted off our hearts. We have our family worships now and your talks have been such a help to us. He is such a wonderful Saviour if we will only let Him dominate our lives.

Whole Family Saved

Dear Radio Pastor:

It is with great joy that I want to thank you for conducting the radio revival. My husband and I have accepted Christ as our Saviour, and so have our two sons. All praise and honor be to our God for this.

Radio Is Reaching the Otherwise Unreached

Dear Brother:

I have accepted Jesus Christ today as my Saviour. Thank you and your people for prayers. My husband isn't saved, and I can't get Him inside a church. But now with God's help we can hear the Gospel at home. I am so happy today that I now know my Saviour. — Mrs. C. S. —

A Church Member 46 Years, Now Saved

From Missouri

THE SWORD OF THE LORD

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EDITOR AND PUBLISHER

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Franklin Street, Wheaton, Illinois

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Dear Brother:

I thought I was saved till I heard your sermons. I joined the church when I was 24, and I made the remark that I was not afraid to die. I'll soon be 70 and my health will not permit me to go to church, and you have become the means of saving my soul. — M. G. C. —

A Church Member 30 Years Now Saved

Kansas

Dear Christian Friend:

I sure learn more and more. I gave my heart to the Lord in one of your broadcasts. I thought I was saved for over 30 years, but I was mistaken. — M. L. T. —

Man and Wife Saved

Nebraska

Dear Brother Epp:

When I was a child of 8 or 9, I thought I was saved. Later I attended a so-called Christian college, where with the teaching I received, I lost my faith. Oh, yes, we were required to attend chapel, and have so many hours of Bible before we could graduate, but we would have been better off without either. After graduating I taught school, S. S. classes, etc., not realizing I was lost. Thank God this winter I began listening to your broadcast and one day while Bro. Rice was preaching I realized that I was lost, so I prayed and was brought into fellowship with God. If only all ministers would preach as you, I wouldn't have gone to church all these years, and not have been convicted of my lost condition.

I was married to a man who was a church member and a good man, as men count good. He also listened to Bro. Rice and was saved. He never heard before about salvation as you men preach it. Now we are both happy in our new-found Christ, and praise and thank Him many times a day for His love to us. — Mr. and Mrs. S. N. T. —

Mother From Iowa Saved

Dear Friends:

When I was sixteen I thought I was saved. But through your messages God has shown me what a Pharisee and hypocrite I have been these 23 years. I tried to be good, and the world would pass me as a good woman, but my heart was not good. God has shown me through your sermons what born-again means. Therefore I take my stand for Jesus, and trust Him for my salvation. Please pray for my unsaved family. — Mrs. H. W. —

Death Bed Salvation

Kansas

My dear friends:

Just to let you know that my father was saved on his death-bed by your prayers.

Mother Restored and Three Children Saved

Dear Brother Epp:

Oh, I have such a peace in my heart since I came back to Jesus. We are poor, but I feel rich as a king. Three of my children gave their hearts to Jesus last Saturday morning after the broadcast. I was so happy. I hope my husband and oldest boy give their hearts to Jesus. Pray for them. — M. H. B. —

Whole Family Saved

Nebraska

Dear Rev. Epp:

He sure has been sending wonderful blessings to our home. Praise His name. My husband had a serious back operation in January, and had to be in bed. He never had time to listen to the broadcast before, but now he is anxious to hear it every day. While Rev. Rice was speaking he was saved; then last week when Rev. Olsen was preaching I gave my heart to Jesus. Oh, what a blessing! Then last Saturday when you preached to the children our two boys gave their hearts to Jesus. Oh, what wonders our Saviour can do!

Now, Brother Rice, these few quotations from letters are a fair sample of what has been coming in by way of testimonies. As I said before we have on file possibly a thousand such letters coming in the last few months. My cup is not only full, but truly running over. I am so happy that the Lord gave us the chance to sit in the middle of this revival and watch Him do the wonderful work.

May I urge you, Bro. Rice, to pray with us here that there be no let-up in this revival and prayer. Christians are so apt to grow weary. And Satan will do all in his power to cool off the fires that are burning.

There is another matter that I

EASTER AND JUDGMENT

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

Spirit of God may move men tonight and we may see people saved and women saved and children saved and men saved and we will glorify Thy name and praise Thee for it. Speak tonight to each heart and give me boldness. I pray we may have words—sincere words—no foolishness in any of it. Give me not just man's thoughts and man's ideas, but let it be a message from God tonight, and we pray Thy blessing on it. We are Thine. We can do nothing without Thee. You have made us and You have commanded men to repent. Lead them to do it through Thy Word tonight. Amen.

Now, let's see verse 31. It says that God is going to have a judgment and God has appointed the day. And God has set one to do the judging — Jesus Christ, and God has proved it by the resurrection. Judgment is coming!

Easter time is a time of joy. We see these Easter lilies and remember the Lord Jesus came out of the grave. The flowers of spring-time all remind us that death is not all, there is something beyond the grave for our loved ones. There will be a new resurrection. These flowers prove that there is something more than just death. The lilies are so made that the bulbs decay in time, but in due time God brings them forth again, new lilies from the death of these, and so God us. There is a joy in the Easter season. My heart has been happy today as I thought that Jesus arose. He is alive. The Lord Jesus is risen from the dead. He can speak to us and make us happy and answer our prayers. It is joyful to know the Easter time is here. I rejoiced as I studied again the story in the Bible how the angel came down from Heaven. There was a great earthquake, and the angel opened the grave of Jesus and sat down on the stone.

There is joy for Christians in the Easter time. That is good. But that is only half the story. It is one of our sins, it is one of the sins of us preachers just to preach half of the gospel. And there is another story to the Easter, too. Just as surely as Jesus Christ arose from the dead, that same Jesus, the same resurrected body that came out of the grave, that same body with the hands they drove the nails through and with feet they drove the spikes through, and with the side they put that spear in, that Jesus God has appointed to be a judge. We must meet Him who was crucified, Him who went to Heaven and will come again to receive us to Himself, and we must also meet the rest of the story; there is something beyond Easter joy for a Christian. There is condemnation for sinners in the Easter message. There is blessing for us who are saved to remember that Jesus died for us and rose again, but there is something for all sinners since God raised Jesus from the dead — there is more to it than just a resurrection. There is judgment coming.

I have made no artificial application here. The Scripture particularly says that the resurrection of Jesus Christ is the proof of the judgment. Therefore it is the honorable and proper thing, it is only Scriptural for me to preach tonight on Easter Sunday night, on the certain judgment when the resurrected Christ will judge sinners. I preached that Jesus is raised from the dead. Now then, judgment is coming. That is one of the axioms of the Bible, one of the plainest teachings of the

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Yours because of Calvary,
Theo. H. Epp

Bible. Judgment is coming. Several things make certain that judgment will come.

A Personal Creator Has Appointed A Judgment

First, there is a God. Do you believe this world goes by hazard? Do you believe this world just happened to be here? Did it come by accident and chance? The truth of the matter is that it takes a great deal of gullibility to say there is no God. It takes a fool, the Bible says. Some smart guys "just can't believe in the Bible!" No, they can't believe there is a God, but they can believe that men came from monkeys, that the whole thing worked itself out automatically! How did the world get here?

The sun was whirling around and around and around and a fiery mist was flung out in space. It cooled and became the world, accidentally kept revolving, made an orbit, grew life, then men, they say!

What happened to make it land so well? It makes a certain circuit around the sun once every year and it goes around the same way every year, winter and summer, century after century, millennium after millennium, and on through the centuries! That just all happened! Everybody that believes that, stand on your head.

This whole thing just happened. That is why you walk upright, just an accident, they say. Back yonder in the mud somewhere, something wiggled. It was a one-celled animal or plant, they say and that that was the first life on this planet. How did it happen to come? You take certain chemical elements and mix them until an animal forms and comes alive! Evolutionists and atheists say that happened, and that it was just an accident. No God! It just happened to come alive. After awhile it happened until it grew a little more and wiggled again — this one-celled animal, too small to see with the natural eye. As it scratched on the ground an irritated part on the bottom started to grow legs, say these who think there is no God. Fortunately the legs were not on its back but it was just an accident that wasn't the way it did it. It was all an accident that the legs got in the right place. Wouldn't it have been too bad if it had happened to get irritated at the wrong place and accidentally grew legs sticking up in the air?

It happened to get sunburned, in a spot — this is what the scientists tell. They don't grin about it like you do. This is the solemn conclusions of the "learned scientists" of the world! Finally it got sunburned and that part got to be very sensitive to light, so that made an eye. Eye spots. It is a funny thing it didn't have one sunburned spot at the other end of the nose, where most people, sunburn, or on the back of the head. No, it "just happened" to be just right. And so it went along. It just "happened" to grow a backbone. It "just happened" to get a couple of arms and two legs — if it was a fish it "happened" to get fins in the right place. It "just happened" to go a little further, grew into other kind of animals. After a while it grew into a craw-dad, then a turtle and other kinds of amphibians. After a while it got out on land, and after a while it made a monkey, then a jack ass, and then an evolution professor! Isn't that easy?

Anybody that believes all that could believe the fanciest tale anybody from a lunatic asylum could make up. Anybody who believes that happened by accident would be a fool. If a man says, "I can't believe the Bible," he has more to explain if he doesn't believe than if he does. A man is a fool who says there is no God. With no God everything is left in the dark. Here you are all dressed up and no place to go! You do not know how you got here.

There were two scientists together. One of them had prepared with long labor a planetarium. I have seen the great planetarium in Chicago. But the old-fashioned kind had a little axis. Here in the center is a ball picturing the sun, then the earth is extended on an arm. Around the sun goes the earth. On other arms extended different lengths, other balls representing other planets going around and around the sun. Each little ball

was in proportion and geared to revolve. There is a moon going around the earth while it is going around the sun. All the planets of this solar system were pictured. The scientist could turn a crank and they all would turn around. The earth goes at one rate, each planet at a differing rate and each one had its moons going around it. The man worked a long time to figure it out so they would always come just right, so the eclipse in the moon would come out just as in nature. It took enormous labor; hours, weeks and years of labor.

This scientist had a friend who was an agnostic. He didn't believe the Bible. The Christian scientist showed him this planetarium. The infidel tried it out and saw that it came out just right. He exclaimed, "That is wonderful. Who made it?"

"Nobody," the Christian answered.

"Nobody?" the puzzled infidel asked.

"It just happened. Nobody made it. It just happened that way!"

"Are you crazy? What do you mean?" And he laughed and scoffed. "Any fool can see some somebody made that. There is lots of work on that."

"Well, it looks like if any fool could see that what it is modeled after, this whole solar system, was made by Somebody, too," replied the Christian. "This world, this whole universe that works so well did not just happen. Somebody made it."

Anyone who can look on God's creation and then say there is no God, that man is a fool. Any one can see there is a God if he has any sense at all. "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard" (Psa. 19).

Now the fact that there is a God proves that there must be an accounting with that God. If there is a God, He must bring people to account. If there is a God who made me and planned my life, if there is a God who gave me a mind and conscience, if there is a God who knows everything I do, if there is a God who helps me breathe every breath I draw or I wouldn't do it, if there is a God who keeps my heart beating when I am asleep or I would die, if there is a God who put my life in pleasant places and gave me a good wife and blessed children and all the blessings of this life — if there is such a God, then there must be a judgment when men give account to God! Men must give account to God!

"He Knows All," "In Him We Live And Move and Have Our Being"

One thing about this matter of the judgment is that if there is a God that knows, then there must be a judgment. The all-knowledge of God requires judgment. The boy Samuel said, "Speak, Lord, for thy servant heareth." Away out in the desert the cry of a woman was: "Thou God seest me." Just as certain as there is a God who sees the inmost recesses of your heart, there must be a judgment, God's judgment.

No human judgment will ever bring men to account. I am for judgment. I am for our American system of trial by jury. I am for strict enforcement of the law. I am for the death penalty for murder, kidnapping, and rape, as commanded by the Bible. I am for the strict enforcement of the law and for bringing those things to judgment. But ignorant, sinful, weak as all of us are, in this world there will never be perfect judgment until God takes it over. Men do not know enough to judge perfectly. I saw an account the other day where the Supreme Court held that even finger prints are not an infallible witness. No two persons have finger prints alike. My face and Brother Paul Turner's do not look alike. But sometimes occasionally you do find two people to look alike. They may look alike in some ways, but you put their index fingers down on carbon black and make a print, and there is more difference in the finger print than in the face, and the finger print is counted now as the positive identification, and the only true, certain, positive identification. But the other day the Supreme Court said finger prints are after all only cir-

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EASTER AND JUDGMENT

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE TWO)

cumstantial evidence and not positive identification.

That means there is not any way in this world that men can perfectly judge other men. That is the reason the Bible says, "Judge not, that ye be not judged." You do not know anybody's heart. You do not know all anybody did or said even if you heard, you can't remember exactly what they said. If you heard exactly what was said, you don't know just what was meant by what was said. You can see a man's face, but you cannot see his heart. Human judgment in the nature of the case is indefinite, unsatisfactory and not conclusive. The best courts in the land — I am for strengthening them, I am for the support of law, but the best human judgment must come to naught one day. That means if God then, God Himself, must take charge of the judgment business one day because God knows all things. That is taught in the Bible. That which is whispered in secret shall be shouted from the housetop. It is the prerogative of God to bring secret things to light. God will do it. Judgment is coming and it means that just as certain as Christ rose from the dead that sin out in the night, out away from God, that secret act of adultery that only two persons knew, God will bring it to light. Every band of boys that got together two or three in a robbery or burglary, God must bring it to light. If two people conspired against another and a murder took place, and nobody else is left alive to tell it, God will bring it to light.

In your secret heart, one sin may be locked up, unknown to any living soul. You may go away and feel that no one knows, but God knows it! That sin in the secret recesses of your heart, God has seen and recorded it and God must bring you to account for the sin that is on the inside.

Only God can bring men to judgment, and God must bring men to judgment. If there is a God, then God knows and God sees, if there is a good God, He must bring men to judgment, and He will. As certain as there is a God in Heaven, there will be a judging when men are brought before God. There must be. The Bible so declares it and reason declares it. There ought to be and there will be. Then when secret things are made plain, things that are whispered be shouted, things that are hidden be revealed, your sin will out.

God said to Cain, "Thy brother's blood cries to me from the ground," and one day murderers will all be marked as murderers. Some of you are now known as murderers in God's sight. You may be respectable, but God sees the wickedness of your heart, and He heard the cry of a little baby killed before birth. God sees the blood of the innocent shed, the unborn babies murdered! God knows your heart, your malice, your hate, your grudges and unforgiveness will stand out one day as murder. God knows thieves here tonight that never reached over into your brother's purse, but you would if you could — you covet. God knows the adulterer that never committed the overt act, but who looked on a woman to lust after her. I say God alone will bring people to judgment. God must bring people to judgment. In fact, if God knows all things, and sees all things, God must bring people to judgment, and He will. He will. He will! We live and move and have our being in Him. He knows us and so He must bring us to judgment.

The righteousness of God demands that He bring people to judgment. Let's see what we mean by that. This Scripture says: "Because he hath appointed a day, in

the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead." Nobody else is fit to judge. The truth of the matter is this: I think we ought to have officers of the law, but, Brother Simmons, (a police sergeant) it is fine to have you officers, God bless you good, solid men, we ought to pray for you. The Bible commands us to stand by you. We ought to obey the law. But when it comes to a final analysis, nobody is ever good enough to sit in judgment on other men. We have certain rules, and by those laws we enforce order and justice the best we can. But every judge upon the bench, from the traffic court to the supreme court of the United States, every jury, every prosecutor is inadequate, human, sinful. I am standing for certain laws, but by God's laws, I, too, am a sinner. The righteousness of God makes Him the only one good enough to bring men to judgment, and He will do it!

If the district attorney stands before a jury and says, "This man is a murderer. Here is the evidence. There is the bullet, this is the bloody garment. These eye-witnesses swore they saw the murder. I demand the death penalty." Yet that district attorney knows he, too, is a guilty sinner in God's sight. Every district attorney deep down in his heart knows he is held accountable before Almighty God, not fit to judge others, not fit to prosecute others, except as he acts for God, not for himself. But the righteousness of God fits Him and makes it that He will be the judge, and He will.

If God lets sin get by, then there is no God who is good. There is no righteousness in God, no holiness in God, no goodness in God, unless God punishes sin. And God does punish sin. We cannot have a holy God, a righteous God without judgment, we cannot have a God that does right and fair and just unless sin be punished, and so it will be punished.

You read it on every page of the Bible. Listen to these words: "Be sure your sin will find you out" (Num. 32:23). Again He said, "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap" (Gal. 6:7). What a man sows he is going to reap. Here again the Scripture says, "The way of transgressors is hard" (Prov. 13:15). Here again, "For the wages of sin is death" (Rom. 6:23).

My friends, sin demands a judgment. Sin on every hand, heart-break, disease, death on every hand. All these insist and ring like a bell tolling of judgment. One day men must be dragged before God for judgment, as certainly as there is a righteous God.

That isn't all. The sovereignty of God demands judgment. Not only God knows and God is just and God is all-powerful, but God is on the throne and God is a ruler and God will not brook interference, and that means God must have judgment. If one man can get by with sin, then two men can, and the race of sinners can get by with it. And if we get by, devils in Hell will say, "Come on, we will drag God off His throne!" There couldn't be any God unless He is a God that holds sin down and brings sin to punishment and judgment.

Do you know why American homes are breaking down? Back of all break-down is a lack of discipline. If in every home people were held to account, the wife taught to obey her husband, children taught to obey and that sin must be punished, judgment in justice, if that discipline and teaching were maintained, then homes would stand. Where such discipline is not maintained, where justice and honor and integrity and the punishment of sin, and the reward of virtue are not maintained, then the failure of such homes, or of such nations, even, is certain.

As a father and husband, no man is fit to be respected unless he is a just and honorable ruler, seeing that right is done in the home. No man is fit to be a father unless he says to his children, "Do this because it is right, and I will reward you if you do it, punish you if you don't." There is no hope for the future of this nation except as sin be punished and virtue rewarded. Let sin get by unpunished in a na-

tion and one day there will be such lawlessness, revolution, atheism and ruin of morals as will overthrow the nation in utter ruin.

So, as certain as there is an all-powerful God, and a God of authority, that certain there must be a judgment. If one sinner could get by with one sin and not be brought to accountability, then God is no God. One day somebody will defy Him and get by with it and drag Him from His throne. There must be a judgment. So the Scripture says: "Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead."

God Will Judge the Whole World

That judgment will reach the whole world. God will judge the world. Look up, my brother! Are you dismayed by crime? Look up, my brother! Do you see sin widespread, sin prospering? Do you see how righteousness fails? Have you seen downtrodden China, the meek, overrun by Japan the violent? Ethiopia the defenceless raped by Italy the mighty? All over this world wrong prevails, sin overcomes, the poor are downtrodden, the weak are mistreated, the righteous are oppressed, Christians are persecuted! Do you see that? Do you see Jews abused by those not their betters? All around the world wrong seems entrenched, seems to overcome good. But I will give you this good news. Thank God, one day He will judge this world, the whole world, it will not be a partial judgment. When God gets ready, God will do it. Praise His name, the world will be called in judgment. The Scripture says "the small and great" will stand before God. Some are too great to be judged now. Some are so big they never pay a traffic fine. Some are so big that if they committed murder they wouldn't spend two hours in jail, and never go to the penitentiary. If a man has friends enough, influence enough, money enough, it is hard to bring him to account for sin. There are some men who, if there is one Mason on the jury, if there is one member of their church on the jury, or if before a certain court they can get a change of venue, or a new trial, or an appeal, they feel safe. Men are sometimes too big, they think, to be judged by human courts. Thank God, one day the small and the great, the whole world will be judged. The world, praise God!

God Has Appointed the Day

Let's see more in this Scripture. That day is already appointed. The world seems to drag on haphazardly. We look toward the future and it is blank. We cannot guarantee, we cannot tell what will be one second ahead of time.

The startling things come unexpectedly, unplanned for, unprepared for. Moving out of the future comes we know not what. This time next year will the world be bathed in blood of universal war? Will we be in prosperity or in direst need? Will we be scourged by the most awful epidemic of disease this world ever saw? I do not know. Nobody living knows. The wisest men of the nation do not know what will happen in America one year from now. We do not know whether this government will be standing, even, or whether a rebellion of Communism and labor unions will overturn America. In world affairs, or in local affairs, we look into a dark future. Each person looks blindly into a future we cannot foretell.

I preached one night in Binghamton, N. Y., on the death of Bruno Hauptmann, then condemned to die in the electric chair. That night a man helped shut the doors of the big Binghamton Theater where I preached in that union revival campaign. When he started to drive home he could not drive and cried, "Oh, my head!" Somebody else took the wheel and drove home. At twelve o'clock he was rushed to the hospital, and at four o'clock the next morning he was dead. He sat and heard me preach that night! Do you know when death will come to you? No, my friends, nobody knows.

A man heard me preach at Waxahachie, Texas, the second afternoon afterward, he was found shot through the heart. I preached his funeral sermon! One young fellow in Duke, Oklahoma, heard me preach one night on the plan of

What You Got For 16 2/3c

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

TORN VEIL," "TAKE UP THE CROSS!" and "BOBBED HAIR, BOSSY WIVES, WOMEN PREACHERS."

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"I am a subscriber of *The Sword of the Lord* and look forward for it each week. There is much spiritual food in it, for which I am hungry. And I do praise the Lord for it. I give my papers to others after I have read them. And I am always so happy when I read of some one who has accepted the Lord after reading these gospel messages or the gospel in tract form."

Mrs. Ray Strait
Backus, Minn.

salvation. The next day at noon he kissed his mother good-bye, soothed her intreaties that he be saved, saying, "I have plenty of time." At 1:40 that same afternoon he was cut in two by a freight train with no time for repentance. Nobody can see one second into the future. Somebody tonight may slump in your seat here before the service is over, and tonight go out without preparation, without prayer to face judgment, without any chance at all to make preparation to meet God. Nobody can see one second into the future. It is blank. But it is not blank in the eyes of God who made all things. "God hath appointed a day in the which he will judge the world." I thank God though we are in darkness and don't know what is coming, but One does know.

I was pastor at Shamrock, Texas. I went over into Oklahoma for a service. On my way back, I had to catch a freight train back home to my loved ones. A man got me into the locomotive cab. I rode that freight engine — how it roared down the track! It felt like a horse pulling under me. We started out in the night roaring across the prairie. We got down into the sand dunes of the Canadian River. As we rounded curves, winding, winding, I saw that the headlight does not reveal the track ahead at all. One of the strangest things, the headlight shot far out there, a quarter of a mile ahead, and when we would come to a curve we couldn't see the track and here we went roaring around the curve into the darkness. I didn't see a thing in this world. The engineer sat there and looked ahead. Because he knew the track was out there, he knew all about it. I sat there and looked out into the darkness and wasn't afraid. We saw tree-tops on the side, but the track was there, curving to one side, out of the beam of the headlight. So I do not know

(CONTINUED ON PAGE FOUR)

What "The Sword" Did for a Lodge Member

January 28, 1941

"John R. Rice
512 W. Franklin St.
Wheaton, Illinois

"Dear Brother Rice:

"I am attaching my check for the renewal of my subscription to the GREATEST LITTLE RELIGIOUS PAPER in the whole world, *THE SWORD OF THE LORD*, also remittance for a few other books I would like to read and pass along. I can never tell you this side of glory what your article on the lodges has meant to me. It has been my greatest desire since I have been born again, to be of service to my Lord, but I never was able to see any results in all the work that I was trying to do for others. Now I can see that there was some of the old world still in my life for the unsaved to point their fingers at me about. They could not understand how I could travel all over the country with the Shriner's Band and do the things they did and work for the Lord at the same time. I would try to forgive myself with the words, no matter where you are, let your light so shine, but now I see there was not much shining. But when I go out with our group for street meetings, or hold a service in a church, there is a different leading in what I say and the way I say it. May the dear Lord keep me humble, so I can be of service to him, in winning others before it is too late..."

H. K. B—

The dear brother above wrote us just a year before, told us how he had been a Mason since 1920, had gone up to the thirty-second degree, joined the Shrine in 1921, told how he had been all over the United States, a greater part of Canada, to Bermuda and Halifax with the Shrine band. But *The Sword of the Lord* opened his eyes and now he is giving a real testimony for God.

"Now I must tell you how we enjoy the little paper, *The Sword*. I read it to Mr. A—, as his eyesight is leaving and he cannot see to read; and he can hardly wait till it comes into our home... then he preaches the sermons in your paper to wicked men in the town we live in. After we read the little paper we give it out for other people. It is too good to let lay around. We like to follow you from place to place and pray for you as you go."

Mrs. A. L. A—
Danville, Iowa.

"A heartfull of thanks for your good *Sword of the Lord*. Oh, how I read every word in it and love it so very much. I would like to know the one that sent it to me so I could thank the one. I could not have received a better gift... I am an old and crippled lady. I don't know how to write anything but Swedish, but I hope you will be able to read a little of this to see how happy I am of the good *Sword of the Lord*... Is there a way to thank the one that gave me this gift?"

If you have been blessed by reading *The Sword of the Lord*, or if you know of someone who has been saved through it, why not write and tell us?

"For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming?"

"For ye are our glory and joy."

— I Thessalonians 2:19, 20.

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EASTER AND JUDGMENT

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE THREE)

what is ahead in the future, but God's track is there. He knows what is around the curve and all, so I go ahead not afraid.

My God has appointed all things. "God hath appointed a day in the which he will judge the world." God has appointed it. Did you know the course of the nations is appointed? God will put an end to one nation, another rise and fall. Did you know God has set a time when the Roman Empire will be restored? God knows what He is doing with Mussolini. God knows what He is doing with Hitler in Germany. They are working out the God-appointed plan, unconscious of it, but just as definitely as when Jesus was condemned by the Sanhedrin and by Herod. God knows all the future, and He alone must pull the strings.

Oh, my friends, God has appointed the day in the which He will judge the world. God has already set the time. You don't know when you will die, but God knows when you will die. You don't know what will happen next, but God knows. You don't know who will crash into another car, will stick your head through the windshield so that the glass will cut your throat and tomorrow you will be in the hospital and someone will be saying, "Pray for my husband." You do not know, but God knows. They are in His hands. The days are appointed. They are in His hands. And God has already appointed the day in the which He will judge the world. God has appointed that day. That day is coming. God has set the time, beloved. Judgment is certain.

Christ Jesus To Be the Judge

More than that, the Lord Jesus Christ will be the Judge who knows. The way the Scripture puts it here, "He will judge the world by that man," that is by Jesus Christ — "by that man whom he hath ordained." Here is just a word, "that MAN." We read that Jesus arose from the dead. But did you know that Jesus was first born

In God's Sight Justified By Faith

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

works. It is only as men see our outward lives that they will count us just men. And so in man's sight, we are justified by works. We show our faith by our works.

But in God's sight it is an entirely different matter. God sees the heart. So Galatians 3:11 says: "But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident; for the just shall live by faith."

Remember that one is really saved and justified in the sight of God, when he trusts Christ in the heart. One is saved by faith without works.

The same thing exactly is said in Romans 3:20: "Therefore, by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight." In the sight of God, no one is ever justified by his works, but simply by faith. Acts 13:38, 39 say on this question:

"Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins: And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses."

Then, according to the Scripture, one is instantly forgiven and counted just in God's sight, when he trusts in his heart. But he only proves to men that he is just or is counted just in men's sight only as he shows his faith by his outward works.

The dying thief was truly converted, hanging on the cross, though he never was justified in men's sight. He went home to Paradise with Jesus that day. On the other hand, men count many a lost man just, as the Pharisees were counted just and good, by their outward lives, though they had never been born again.

Christians are saved and justified in God's sight by simple faith without works. But they ought also to prove themselves Christians by the way they live, and so be justified in the sight of men.

Read Romans 4:1-8 carefully, and you will see that one is saved without works. Also Ephesians 2: 8, 9, which says the same thing.

of a virgin's womb, humbled Himself and came in the form of sinful flesh, not in the form of angels? He left the glory of His deity behind, in some sense. He came into this world, through the same portals that every man comes into the world, he nursed at a mother's breast, He was dandled on a mother's knee. She held His tiny hand as He learned to walk. He grew in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man. He was tempted in all points like as we are, and yet without sin. He grew into manhood. In the fullness of time He went to the River Jordan, and there publicly before the whole world He was baptized to show that He came as a man, to live and be as a man, and give us the example of baptism. The Holy Spirit came on Him as He prayed to show that we ought to have the Holy Spirit in us. Then Jesus went about doing good. He is our perfect example. He knows our griefs and sorrows. He hath not dealt with us after our sins, nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. But He knoweth our frame. He remembereth that we are dust. We ought to come boldly, therefore, to the throne of grace. I thank God that Jesus is a man, my Saviour. I don't have to look off to some unearthly being, some ghostly spirit. I see God revealed in human form.

I am glad He gathered His disciples about Him. I am glad John leaned his head on Jesus' breast at supper time. I am glad Jesus talked to Him. I am glad Jesus was kind to them and talked to them and taught them to pray. I could love that kind of a Saviour — a man-Saviour. He gave up His Godhead, the King of the world, the Creator of the universe, and left all that too and became a man. That Man is the Saviour, and nobody could be saved without Him.

Somebody asked a Hindu student, "Do you love God?" He replied, "What is God like?" He said, "I don't know whether I love Him or not. How would I know? I never saw God. I don't know what God is like. How would I know?" The missionary said, "God is like Jesus Christ." "Oh, if He is like Jesus, I could love Him. I could worship Him."

Now God has sent His Son. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." I am so glad God sent His Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin to condemn sin in the flesh. And now anybody who wants to can look up and have peace and forgiveness. A Man took a man's place. He didn't sin, but He bore my sins. He never did wrong, but He knows every time I was tempted. What else could be as well, as fitting? This same Jesus that died and was raised from the dead, the same Jesus that ascended to Heaven, and "God hath appointed a day in the which He will judge the world by the Man whom He hath ordained, by Jesus Christ." He will judge this world. When Jesus came out of the grave and met the disciples, He said to them, "All power is given unto me in Heaven and in earth." In John we are told: "He hath given all judgment unto the Son." Oh, thank God, Jesus Christ is going to be the Judge.

Some don't care much for Jesus. You think of Him as weak. You admire Napoleon and George Washington more, and don't think much of Jesus. You never bow the knee to Him. You never pray to Him. You never fall down like Paul did and say, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" You never fall down like doubting Thomas and say, "My Lord and my God." You never say like Peter did to Jesus, "We believe and are sure that thou art the Christ the Son of the living God." You never say that, you never feel that. You don't mention His name in prayer. You don't stand up before men and say, "He is my Saviour and my Lord."

I preached here one time on "What Think Ye of Christ?" And when I asked, "What think ye of Christ?" one after another began to say, "He is all in all to me." "He is my Lord and Saviour." "He is my God." Another said, "He is my Saviour." Another said, "The Lord is my rock and my salvation." And all over this congregation men praised Him. I know you unbelievers, you blasphemers, you nev-

er mention His name except with a sneer and with cursing and blaspheming tongue. But I remind you that the Lord Jesus, that same Christ, will be your Judge. He will be your Saviour if you will have Him. If you will not have Him as Saviour, you will have Him as Judge. God will deal with every man that ever lived through one person, Jesus Christ. You will take Him as Saviour or you will meet Him as Judge. You will find in Him mercy, or you will find in Him condemnation.

God deals with every person ever born through Jesus Christ! God has planned it that He should be pre-eminent in all things. Jesus Christ, the Maker of heaven and earth, King of kings and Lord of lords, Saviour and Judge, He is the Lamb of God, but He is also the Lion of the tribe of Judah. God hath appointed a day in the which he will judge the world by the man — by the man — whom He hath ordained. By a man, some one with a form, with eyes, and hands and ears and a brain and a heart, who was tempted like you are tempted. So you will face Jesus Christ one day and be judged by Him. My friends, God wants Jesus to sit in judgment on you that will not be saved. Jesus Christ is to judge! Some people don't like to bow the knee now, but every knee shall bow, and every tongue shall confess that Jesus is Lord to the glory of God the Father. Jesus Christ is God's Judge, the Scripture says.

The Resurrection Proves Jesus Christ Is Judge

More than that, there is proof of it. This proof is the resurrection of Jesus. "Whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead." I wish I could prove to you the judgment so that you would go away and be prepared to meet God. "So then because I will do thus and so unto you, God says, prepare to meet thy God." There is abundant evidence. How do I know there will be a judgment? How do I know I will be called to account? This is how: God raised Jesus from the dead! As certain as He raised Jesus from the dead, He is going to be your Judge. The evidence is this Easter Sunday. If the Saviour came out of the grave, then that Saviour will be your Judge. That is proof. That is evidence.

Perhaps you don't know how to read the writings of the saints and philosophers, who can prove that Christ is the Son of God. You say, "No, I do not believe that, that Jesus came forth literally out of the grave." Kagawa who lectured in Dallas at the First Baptist Church said, "We do not know whether to believe in the literal resurrection of the body like the apostles believed as written in the gospels, or whether to believe in just a spiritual resurrection." He might not know, but I know that Jesus arose from the dead. He was seen of the twelve. Paul saw Him. Peter saw Him. Above five hundred at one time saw Him. The soldiers saw Him and were convinced, and the disciples didn't first believe it. But they were convinced that Christ did rise from the dead. Do you know why the modernists do not want a resurrected Saviour, why unborn-again, unregenerate, wicked men do not believe in the resurrection? Because if it was a literal, bodily resurrection of the Lord Jesus, then there is judgment for sinners, and Hell for sinners who go away without God. That is the reason people don't like a literal, bodily resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Oh, my friends, as certain as the resurrection, there is judgment. You have seen Christ raised from the dead in the same human body with the nail scars in His hands, that Christ is going to be the Judge, and the resurrection proves it.

I read a Masonic magazine some years ago, *The New Age Magazine*. I read a paragraph that said, "Some where on the Judean hillside in a cave there rests the ashes of Jesus." That is a lie. That isn't so. The body of Jesus Christ never went back to dust. The body of Jesus Christ never decayed, for He said, "Thou wilt not suffer thine Holy One to see corruption" (Psa. 16:10). And He arose from the dead the third day and Joseph's tomb was empty. The angel sat on the stone. Then those men fell as dead men, and the disciples found their Lord. My friends, Jesus Christ arose from the dead and if

He did, there is judgment for sinners.

Oh, Sinner, Repent!

There is one other word I ought to say. Let's go back to verse 30:

"And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent."

And verse 31:

"Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead."

What shall I do, then, if God is going to bring men to judgment?

"If every secret lust and thought shall be to judgment brought When the Lord in all His glory shall appear,"

Oh, then, what must I do? One thing alone to do and that is repent, repent today. Today repent of your sins and get God's forgiveness. Get the record cleared and you can be saved and can meet God in peace and not in judgment. One thing there is left to do, sinful man, repent. Who here today will repent?

I am not talking about joining a church, or being baptized or making good resolves. I am talking about a change in the heart, turning from sin to God, trusting Christ for mercy. I am talking about the whole heart turning away from sin to God. Depend on Him, claim Him, risk Him, have Him as your Saviour! You are as certain for judgment as the winter snow is certain to melt in the sun. You are certain for judgment as the flowers that wither. As certain as the sun rises and sets. You are certain for judgment. There is a God that has appointed the day and the day is set and your record written down, and according to your works you will be judged unless you repent. Oh, then, God hath commanded all men everywhere to repent. Would you say it is not time yet? It is. God has commanded you to repent. Don't you say, "Well, if God ever moves me." God has already commanded you to repent. God has commanded you to repent. God has commanded you to repent. Way may say, "I don't feel like it." Feel like it or not, you are going to Hell and face an eternal judgment if you don't repent.

Or maybe you say, "I haven't done so very much bad."

Nevertheless, if you do not repent you will come to judgment, you will be dragged out of Hell and your knee will bend and your tongue will confess your crime in judgment before Jesus Christ if you do not repent. Oh, repent while you have time! Turn to the Lord Jesus!

Jesus said:

"Those eighteen, upon whom the tower in Siloam fell, and slew them, think ye that they were sinners above all men that dwelt in Jerusalem?"

"I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish" (Luke 13:4, 5).

God commands you to repent. My friends, after all, the Lord Jesus takes no pleasure in judgment. I mean this, God does not want people to die. "God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved" (Jno. 3:17). God gives a chance for mercy first. Judgment is only God's last resort. Judgment comes only after mercy is spited, when men will not have forgiveness and salvation. God does not want you to die. "Turn ye, turn ye," says the Prophet Ezekiel, "for why will ye die?" "As I live, saith the Lord, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked. Turn ye, turn ye, for why will ye die?"

And in Second Peter 3:9 we are told, "The Lord is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

There is only one way to keep out of Hell, and God wants you to take that way. There is only one way to keep from being brought to judgment — and God wants you to take that way. That way is to repent of your sins. By repenting God means a whole-hearted turning in your heart to Jesus Christ and risking Him to save you, trusting Him to save you. Will you do it tonight? Today is the day of salvation. "Behold, now is the accepted time, behold, now is the day of salvation." If you want to be saved,

you can be. Unless you turn to God in repentance, you are going to Hell and be dragged out to judgment before Jesus Christ. God has set the day. God has set the Man to be the Judge. God has a record of your deeds, and God is going to bring you to judgment unless you repent. But thank God, my sins will not come to judgment, for in John 5:24 we are told:

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation."

The revised version puts it: "Cometh not to judgment, but is passed from death unto life."

There is just one way to escape judgment and that is to take Jesus Christ as your Saviour so you won't have to have Him as your Judge.

A good many years ago before the days of the automobiles a young lawyer walked down the street in a certain town in the South. Suddenly there was a cry up the street. A good many people began crying out. There came a run-away horse with a careening buggy, and as it came along, the lawyer seized the bridle and held on and pulled and tugged until he dragged the horse to a stop. The young man in the buggy got out and his face was as white as a sheet. He had lost the lines and couldn't control the horses at all. He got out profusely thanking this friend who saved his life.

Years passed. Again these two men met. The man in the buggy one time had committed a crime and was brought before a court and was tried and found guilty. He came before the judge for the sentence. Standing there, he said, "Judge, your honor, don't you know me?"

"No, I don't know you," the judge replied.

"Don't you remember such a day eighteen years ago when a wild horse and buggy was running down the street, and at the risk of your own life, you saved my life that day. You won't condemn me to the gallows now, will you?"

And the judge said, "My friend, that time I was your saviour, but this time, I am your judge."

And, my friends, Jesus Christ is offered as the Saviour of every man. Take Him, oh, take Him and be saved while you can! But if you do not take Him as Saviour, you will meet Him as Judge. Tonight is the time. Tonight is the time! Turn and be saved while you can. Don't wait until tomorrow.

"Tomorrow's sun may never rise To bless thy long deluded sight."

Don't say "some other time." Some other time may never come. Don't say, "Almost persuaded." That is what another man said in the Bible, but he was never saved. "The road of bye and bye leads to the town of Never." "Procrastination is the thief of time." It is the thief of opportunity and of your soul's salvation and the thief of Heaven if you postpone salvation. All of life's opportunities will be gone and your heart will be hardened, and Hell will be your portion. Oh, my friends, today is the day to be saved. Don't you want to be saved?

How many will say, "I know I am a sinner. But Jesus Christ died for me, and I have trusted Him and He has forgiven me. I have trusted in Him to keep me from the judgment."

Decision For Christ

Dear reader, if today you will repent of your sins and trust Christ today, will you not write me and tell me so? How glad I will be to know and to rejoice with you. If you can honestly do so, will you write me as follows:

Evangelist John R. Rice, Editor, *The Sword of the Lord*
Dear Mr. Rice:

I have read your sermon on "Easter and the Judgment." I believe that Christ is appointed to judge the world and every unconverted sinner must come before Him. I here and now acknowledge myself a sinner. I repent of my sins. Today I trust Christ to forgive and save me from sin and Hell and judgment. I will openly claim Christ as my Saviour and will begin to live for Him, by His help.

Signed _____

Address _____